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Testimony of Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association

Public Hearing Subject Matter	Support/ Oppose
HOUSE RESOLUTION FOR STEVEN REVICZKY TO BE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE	Strongly Support

On behalf of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA), I want to thank Co-Chairs Duff and Janowski and Governor Malloy for nominating Steven Reviczky to serve as Commissioner for the Department of Agriculture (DoAg). CFPA strongly supports Commissioner Reviczky's nomination.

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) is the first conservation organization established in Connecticut in 1895. For 120 years, CFPA has offered testimony before the General Assembly on sustainable forestry, state parks and forests, trail recreation, natural resource protection, and land conservation issues.

DoAg is Connecticut's primary agency involved with ensuring the safety of Connecticut's diverse food supply. Connecticut was once the bread basket of New England, and Commissioner Reviczky is dedicated to restore Agriculture to prominence as an economic industry, preserve Connecticut's rural character, and keep family farms in business. The hard work done by Commissioner Reviczky to both preserve farmland and work toward greater agricultural vitality by growing the support base for locally-grown foods has significant environmental benefits that are not always appreciated.

At CFPA, we have seen Commissioner Reviczky make a difference to the success of Agriculture in Connecticut in many ways, and we believe strongly that he is the right person for this job!

CFPA would be glad to respond to any questions you may have about our strong support.